

**Onslow County Natural Area Inventory Site Report
Camp Lejeune Marine Corps Base**

AFRICA POND LIMESINKS

Site significance: national

Size: about 420 acres

Quadrangle: New River Inlet

SITE DESCRIPTION: Africa Pond Limesinks natural area is located in the southeastern part of the main base near Combat Town. It is characterized by flat to gently rolling terrain on a low sandy upland terrace containing several depressions. The upland flats support the Wet Pine Flatwoods Wet Spodosol Variant and Xeric Sandhill Scrub Coastal Plain Variant natural communities. Longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*) is the canopy dominant in the Xeric Sandhill Scrub and Wet Pine Flatwoods communities, with the flatwoods having a greater species diversity, especially among herbs, than the drier sandhill community. The Small Depression Pond community occurs where depressions in the uplands intersect the watertable, and the seasonally exposed margin supports a high diversity of herb species. This site contains two of the very best examples of the Small Depression Pond within the global range of this restricted natural community type, as well as several other high quality examples of the pond community. Four rare animal species have been documented from the site, including the Federal and State Endangered red-cockaded woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*) and Federal and State Threatened American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*). A total of 19 rare plant species have been documented from Africa Pond Limesinks, most of which are associated with the pond community. Among these rare plant species, the site contains the greatest concentration of awned meadow-beauty (*Rhexia aristosa*) over the global range of this rare species.

NATURAL COMMUNITIES: Small Depression Pond, Wet Pine Flatwoods Wet Spodosol Variant, Xeric Sandhill Scrub Coastal Plain Variant.

RARE ANIMALS: Bachman's sparrow (*Aimophila aestivalis*), American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*), red-cockaded woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*), Carolina gopher frog (*Rana capito capito*).

RARE PLANTS: Savanna milkweed (*Asclepias pedicellata*), warty sedge (*Carex verrucosa*), Venus flytrap (*Dionaea muscipula*), Florida spikerush (*Eleocharis elongata*), Robbins spikerush (*E. robbinsii*), pondspice (*Litsea aestivalis*), flaxleaf seedbox (*Ludwigia linifolia*), southeastern panic grass (*Panicum tenerum*), awned meadow-beauty (*Rhexia aristosa*), West Indies meadow-beauty (*R. cubensis*), coastal beaksedge (*Rhynchospora pleiantha*), long-beak baldsedge (*R. scirpoides*), Tracy's beaksedge (*R. tracyi*), Chapman's arrowhead (*Sagittaria graminea* var. *chapmanii*), Canby's bulrush (*Schoenoplectus etuberculatus*), Georgia nutrush (*Scleria georgiana*), Carolina goldenrod (*Solidago pulchra*), lace-lip ladies'-tresses (*Spiranthes laciniata*), dwarf bladderwort (*Utricularia olivacea*).